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Integration of BMX system continues to progress well

by **Don Nord**

Western's BMX system (BIDSS/ Maximo/RITA) has seen significant changes, activity and progress lately.

The groundwork laid in August by the BMX Whole Systems Change Event continues to provide direction.

Leading the BMX system integration is **Linda Lambrecht**, acting BMX project manager. She is supported by an interim staff and many existing functional and technical groups. Also providing leadership is the BMX Cross Functional Team of **Clark LeDoux**, RMR administrative officer, **Stan Gliko**, UGP maintenance manager, **Anita Wiley**, SNR financial manager and **Ken Furlow**, acting Information Systems corporate applications manager. RMR Engineering Manager **Chuck Miller** was named Maximo coordinator.

A BMX project plan incorporates the goals, tasks and objectives of all ongoing BMX activities. The project plan, summary of the 12 project goals, weekly status updates from Lambrecht and other BMX information is now posted on our internal web site at www.int.wapa.gov/bidss.

Current activities indicate considerable progress, though much remains to be done. Many, many people throughout Western contributed to the successful fiscal year-end closure and reporting. Many have also been involved in preaudit, or "Project A," activities. This work was done because DOE was concerned about our inability to adequately reconcile some accounts. Project A is nearly complete, but a full audit for FY 1999 is still to follow.

Other current activities include developing a BMX training program. The first focus will be on purchase process training. Also, Oracle consultants are on-site to assist with Project A, as well as assess training needs and help Western staff organize a series of Westernwide knowledge transfer workshops in February and March.

Another consulting company, EDS, is also working for Western to analyze how we use reports and recommend how we can best use Maximo's capabilities. At the same time, EDS is providing on-site assistance to Western staff.

We are introducing a new procedure for processing change requests. A prioritization group determines actions and priorities based on direction given by the Cross Functional Team. We also improved the process for handling technical assistance requests submitted to Oracle. Another recent major activity was successfully completing the Y2K testing of changes made since the full Y2K, end-to-end test in June.

A major goal throughout all of this work, though, is stabilizing the system. "We will consider BMX to be stable," said Lambrecht, "when we do monthly closings and reconciliations on time for six months in a row. This is a key goal of the BMX effort."

The permanent BMX project manager, **Craig McComb**, comes on board Jan. 17 to take over project leadership. Formation of a new Chief Information Office organization will bring additional changes. In the meantime, people throughout Western are working together to keep the project moving forward.

(Note: Nord is a BMX project staff member.)